## the Scranton Tribune

#### ANDERES AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTUR PA. 49 FECOND-GLASS MAIL MATTER.

TEN PAGES. SCRANTON, DECEMBER 31, 1897.

Tomorrow morning carriers of The Tribune will offer for sale to the subscribers whom they have served faithfully during the year copies of The Tribune Almanae and Political Annual for the coming year. These copies are sold to them at cost; what they receive from subscribers in way of profit will represent a New Year remembrance appropriate to the season. The retail price of the Almanuc is 25 cents. At this price it is a fine bargain in handy information.

#### American Wastefulness.

The Rev. John Watson (lan Maclaren) enjoyed greatly his recent visit to this country and since his return has been saying many pleasant things about the American people, but naturally he finds some things to criticize. We can bear these gentle reproofs with the better humor when we remember that the faults to which be directs attention have received abundant and much sharper consure from elsatlantic Especially was this thritty but delightful Scot impressed with the predigality shown by Americans in general. Says her

"If one were placed in a witness box he might be obliged to declare that they were distinctly thriftless. An American things about his money with g execute prodigality. Times there are when a Bard-batten, poverty-stricken Sent cherishes a bitter grudge against his more friendly coustn. It is when he follows him hato a continental hotel and finds the lackeys despise his poor vails after the royal largesse they have just received. We can only stand aside and wonder at our kinsman who gets his money so easily, who holds it so and far removed about thought of saving. And yet it may be allowed us to shake our heads and have some misgivings as to whether this prodigality and the firm upbuilding of a people. Is the estentations waste of food in hotels wholesome or justifiable, where the menu is bewildering in variety and the portions supplied beyond all necesused? Does it conduce to stability and self-restraint to be quite indifferent about tomorrow and to reserve nothing of today's earnings? Have not the tarmers traded recidensly on the virgin resources of the land? Have not the forests been improvidently cut cain want of prudence and manageresults in the creation of manhood. dence and luxury, but ever retain and cultivate that pabit of simple and seere living which was shown by her Puritua fathers."

Without questioning the accuracy of this indictment; in tact, admitting it to be true and just, it needs to be said that a steady reaction toward closer economies is atready in progress. It began in business, but it is found to end in social habits and in the general style of living. It is the testimony almost invariably of foreigners who inspect our large industries that in the ingenuity with which our superintendents of industry guard against small leakages and study the utilization of waste products we are already well in advance of continental Europe. The figures of the bureau of statistics at Washington show that in the matter of the average per capits consumption of food products and in other necessaries, economy is making steady inroads. Everywhere our merchants are being forced to do business on smaller margins. The popularity of the 49, 99 or other odd-cent bargain instead of the former round number is proof that thrift in the American charactor is by no means a latent quality. This tendency to diminish the percertage of extravagance is young yet: it will grow forward, not backward.

The report that Spain will give up Cuba is undoubtedly true, but it will not come about voluntarily nor vet while the United States consents to bolster Spain up, tolerate her outrages and care for the victims of her cruel rule. It will be a clear case of Hob-

#### son's choice. Science in the Home

A novelty in expositions is announced for New York next spring. It will be a sanitary science show, at which will be exhibited, in the language of the prospectus, "all the modern systems of sion list at all it must be one for the house heating, ventilation, plumbing, public at large. and so on, and also comparative exhibits of new and primitive hospital errangements, systems of sewerage for cities and villages, a modern schoolroom and the other kind, model tenements, health food, and many other things." In short, it "will cover the departments of domestic sanitation, municipal hygiene, food products, health resorts and sanitariums, hygienic literature, sanitary organizations and their work, progress of preventive medicine, military and naval hygiene, animal sanitation, industrial hygiene, and of popular lectures for every day, deprovided by the management a course of popular lectures for every day, designed to instruct those who hear them

in the art of sanitary fiving. The supervising director of the enterprise, Charles F. Wingate, who is fairly" eminent as a sanitary engineer, in conversing with a Sun representative upon the objects of the exposition, concluded an interesting review of modern sanithey progress with these true words: "A great many good things have been done along sanitary lines. Men build their offices in better localities and live more comfortably in them than Messrs. Corbett and Pitzsimmons conformerly: the homes we live in are template doing each other. When the live characteristics of American wor AIVIAVLITE

of all; they are better ventilated, and ways necessary to do something to is more the custom to leave floors bare and use rugs. Our cleaner streets mean a better quality of air in our houses, people dress more sensibly, especially women. The habit of taking exercise is becoming universal, and so is the habit of taking vacations; lastly, we have the greatest improvement in food. All of these things have been accomplished by education and enlightenment, and the result of this International Health Exposition is bound to give an impetus to similar improve-

ments. Advantageous as the New York sanitary science show will be, it is probaide that its greatest good will come through the stimulation of interest in these subjects in other cities and towns. There is no American city which does not need a course of object lessons of the character of those planned for the metropolis in April.

Evidence as to the circumstances of the shooting of Lieutenant Colonel Ruiz by the Cuban insurgents in Havana province is made complete by the publication of a letter from Brigadier General Aranguren explaining that Ruiz, deliberately disregarding repeated warnings to stay away, approached the Cuban camp guided by two deserters. There he proffered the forbidden vertures and was accordingly courtmartialed and shot. He bore no flag of Spain saw her last hope vanish.

#### Railway Supervision.

The frankest announcement of purpose yet made by representatives of the railroads in their contemporary fight with the interstate commerce commission appears in a document signed by J. H. Leonard and embodying a reply to the article by Commissioner Prouty published in the December Forum. Mr. Leonard says

"The proposition to put all interstate rates under the domination of these gentlemen would apply to over one lightly, who spends it so lavishly-a half the world's railway mileage and man surely of a very princely habit tounage and must be closely scanned. Their task would equal the combined duties of all the other railway commissions in the world. It would be a labor to which thousands of the best is for the good of individual character railway minds of all countries are devoted daily in the endeavor not to extort or oppress, but to develop and justly regulate traffle. In this country over one million freight and passenger rates between over one hundred thousity, and more is taken away than is sand stations would be involved, and their action would apply not only to pooled traffic, but to the vastly larger unpooled tonnage. The interstate decisions would also directly affect state traffic by commercial or statutory laws. or through the like demands of the local railway commissions. The findings down? Is there not everywhere a cer- of the national body would thus affect the vast majority of all the tariffs of mert which cannot in the long run the country. The commission might, minister to moral strength or even to by one majority, then make rates from material wealth? If it be true, as is Kansas, Missouri, etc., to Guif ports contended, that every great empire so low or disproportionate as to shrink pur been built up on thrift, this means or destroy the commerce of the Atthat the homeliest of virtues does not lantic cities, or vice versa. They could that the latter comes under Senator Hour's classification of a beer made of end in the accumulation of money, but make and unmake states, localities, most deleterious and harmful ingredients, corporations and individuals by a ma-And the best friends of America, there- Jority necessarily political or terrisfore, desire that amid all her prosperi- torial, and impair or ruin vast vested fore, desire that amid all her prosper]. torial, and impair or ruin vast vested between \$1.70 and \$1.86 a barrel to the ty she shall not fall away into improvi- interests. It would be a control posmental commission ever constituted as to commerce, the army, the navy, the currency or postal or import tariffs, and no foreign governmental boards or officers possess the authority thus

> This, we submit, is equivalent to say ing that the railroad managers are opposed utterly to fèderal supervision, considering it an impertinence. This may be their private opinion.but seldom is it publicly expressed. Mr. Leonard conveys the inference that the powers asked for by the interstate commerce commission include authority to name every interstate rate. Such is not the truth. The commission asks for power o name maximum and minimum rates, nanagement has discriminated against shipper, a town, or a section, the ommission can apply and enforce a remedy. At present there is no gemedy save through expensive litigation which benefits only the plaintiff who brings it, but carries no redress to his fellow-victims. If the rallway manager d sires to avoid trouble let him play fairly.

> What the interstate commerce com mission would do if clothed with power and manned by demagogues is one thing; what it would do if honestly constituted is another. It must be assumed in the discussion of this problem that the president of the United States, who names the membership of the commission, will do his duty.

> Commissioner Evans says his published views on the proposed compilation of a list of pensioners have been misconstrued. It was not his intention, he says, to distribute these lists indiscriminately over the country, but, on the centrary, solely to examiners in the field to aid them in their work If there is any publication of the pen-

An admirable manual of political statistics and other information of value has been issued by the Philadel. I ticity and adaptation to all regulrements phia Inquirer. The Record and Ledger of the same city have each issued ansome calendars of the season we have seen none quite so fine as that presented by Megargee Bros. of this city. for five years to June 1, as follows:

Mr. Gompers of the American Federation of Labor evidently thinks that banks are organized conspiracies for public robbery. Has it never occurred to him that the bank which gouges invites competition; in other words, that the people have in their own hands the remedy where banks do business un-

The embarrasament of Comptroller Pekles is the more interesting in view of the seriousness with which he has lately regarded his call to save the na-

The dear public is advised not to beome hysterical over any injury that

more sunny, the most important thing show business begins to lag, it is alarouse interest.

> The Carbondale Herald has decided to abandon the evening for the morning field. We wish it success,

#### How to Plug the National Deficit.

THE SPEECH of Senator Hoar. Massachusetts in the senate a few days ago as to the desirableness of imposing a tax on beer in order to increase the revenue placed the subject before the public in a light which ought to command for it full and fair con-sideration. He urged that the question be discussed in a non-partisan manner and that it be decided on its merits. Some and that it be decided on its merits. Some of the facts he gave will be new to most people and they deserve careful attention. He said in part: "Here are a number of foreign brewers. They have a method of making a most deleterious and injurious class of beer without hope. They started it in foreign countries. Those governments, jeaious and anxious for the health of their people and the purity of their mational beverages, put a step to the deleterious practice, and fine stop to the deleterious practice; and they have come over here. They are buying up the American breweries with foreign . I know in one instance of a of foreign birth making 175,000 carrels of beer a year making a profit of a dollar a barrel on his manufacture. We to not dare to compel that industry to pay a reasonable and proper tax, because we are afraid of the political power the brewers will exert, determining the politcal power in this country between differtruce. It was a heroic hazard in an of a dollar a barrel or haif a dollar a barrel or haif a dollar a barrel or heaf a dol trouble in the matter of a deficit.

The attitude of Senator Hoar will be generally approved by intelligent people. It is time this question of taxing beer were considered on its merits and aside from its political effect. If the product of the brewerous is not bearing its right-ful share of the burden of sustaining the government the mistake should be cor-rected, but it should not be done or feft undone because it will help or harm any party. The whole question should be con-sidered on the ground of the ability of beer to bear an additional tax and of the justice of imposing it. Any facts and figures which can throw light on these points will help toward reaching a just lecision and influencing rightly congress

It is a generally received principle that the taxation of any business should be measured according to its ability to pay tax and its need of the protection which the tax goes to maintain. As to the st point it is only necessary to quote the returns of the brewers themselves. The Chicago breweries are nearly all owned by an English syndicate which oight them a few years ago for about 750,090 and at once capitalized them for 1,000,000, making \$5,250,000 out of the opration. But even on this heavy capit-lization they are earning 8 and 10 per nt, besides paying interest on bonds he Milwankee broweries, similarly wined and operated are paying even net-or dividends. And it must be rememcred that in both instances large sums re charged off to depreciation, repairs nd head office expenses before the divi-

The profits on a barrel of beer to the The profits on a barrel of beer to the producer and the seller vary considerably. They depend partly upon the purity of the ingredients of the beer and partly upon the business ability of the producer and retailer. There is one profit on the beer retailed at ten cents a glass and another on the beer which sells at three cents a schooner. The first is probably made of hope while there is little doubt But taking the better class of beer and there are well authenticated instances where the profits have ranged for years that with beer selling at \$6 a barrel th profit to the producer averages the country over about \$2 a barrel. The profits to the retailer are still greater and range from \$1.75 to \$1.25 a keg. And when it is remembered that many of the retailers re only dummles for the producers the large profits of the business can be con-

That the liquor business is able to bear larger tax than it has heretofore borne there are many facts to prove. During the past twelve years a high license mw has been passed in nearly every northern state. In this way the cost of a license and the expense of carrying on a liquor business has been largely increased. In ome cases the license cost has increased and this means that where a public licenses. Take one conspicuous instance. Less than two years ago a high license law was passed in New York state under which the number of saloons has been largely reduced but the revenue has been greatly increased. During the last year of the old law there were 22,957 licensed saloons in the forty-one chartered cities of the state which puld in revenue \$2,500,-743. September 30 last under the new law there were in the same cities 15,989 Hensed saloons paying a revenue of \$6.311. 745. Outside these cities nearly as much more revenue from the liquor business was received making a total of over \$12.

0,000 for the whole state. Such an illustration of the ability of the business to pay a large revenue and still remain profitable speaks volumes. During the year 1896 there were 25,826,093 barels of beer brewed in the United States howing an increase of 2,356,432 barrels ver the previous year. A tax of \$1 a barred on this product would return the gov-ernment a sum more than sufficient to supply any probable deliciency in its revenue. And the propriety of levy-ing this tax should be determined, not on account of its political effect, and of its need and the ability to pay it.

#### THE AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVE.

rom the Troy Times. The American Iocomotive is conquering The American locomotive is conquering the world. There is some special merit in this particular piece of machinery that seems to commend it to railroad operators in all lands. American steel and iron, American werkmanship and American ingenuity in combination pro-duce an engine which for strength, clashas no equal. So the nations of the earth are sending here for locomotives and we are shopping them to Mexico nuals in keeping with those of former South America. Australia. Asia and else-years. Among the numerous hand-waere. The New York Journal of Com-merce and Commercial Bulletin presents some interesting information on the sub-ject, showing the exports of locomotives

				1/2.348184	M.E # 71	nue.
1893				195	\$1.7	95,700
1894			******	142	1.0	08,334
1895					2.0	79,519
1896			*******	261		12,770
1897				338	23.2	25,831
			-0-			
1876	e fol	lowing	figures	show	the d	Istri-
			tean to	COHBOLL		
our	best (	metsur	rs for f	four yes	ars:	2000
			1893.	four yes	ars: 1895,	1896.
		meteme	1893.		ars:	1896.
Bra	eil		189G.		ars: 1895,	1896. 84
Bra: Chil	zil		1893. 77	1894. 26 24 23	ars: 1895,	1896. 84 22
Bra: Chil Cub	zil e		1800. 		ars: 1895,	1896. 84 22 4

The United States now sells to other countries 10 per cent, of its total pruduct of railroad engines, and during the last hree or four weeks orders for seventy one locomotives have been received from first as among the advantages and distinct

ment of piece wages, the extensive use of machine tools, and always the best ones, and pushing them to the utmost, even if the life of the machine is curtailed." A Scotch shop cited as a sample with 2.500 men built 200 locomotives in a with 2,500 men built 200 locomotives in a year, and an American shop of the same class with 1,400 men turned out 200 in an equal period. The American builder is a driver, en ploying every facility to do good and at the same time rapid work. With him thoroughness and speed are allied qualities. And he is getting his reward in those sections of the earth which know good engines when they see them, and which only buy the best.

#### THE MODERN ADVERTISEMENT.

Perhaps no department of a modern lowspaper illustrates more forcibly the changes in methods which have come about than the department of advertis-ing, and this change is more noticeable at this season when the shops put on their holiday attire. It is not many years since business announcements were relegated to almost "any old place" in a hewspaper and presented in a form which was void of attractiveness. In many cases they were inserted largely as cleemosynary patronage; as much for the purpose of sustaining a newspaper for the general good which it was acknowledged it accomplished in a community. It was of course natural, under these circum-

stances, that very little of advantage ac-

crued to the advertiser, and the reader accepted the advertisements as a matter

of course, according them little if any se

rious attention.

In recent years all this has radically changed. The wide-awake merchant has come to regard the daily newspaper as an important factor in his business; he has found that, when properly utilized, it forms a direct means of communication with the purchasing public. It is doubt less true that this same public has been educated to the point of relying upon business announcements as a guide i that expenditure of money for the good things of this world which makes glad the heart of the purveyor; but that is simply another evidence of the value of attractive newspaper business announce-ments. It is certainly frue that the advertising portion of a daily newspaper today scanned with great interest by the vast majority of its readers. A properly prepared newspaper advertisement en-ables them to arrange for purchases, and make selections, with an enormous sav-ing in their own time and the time of the shop people. The natural and afters ther commendable rivalry which exists in all branches of trade stands out sharply and well defined in the modern newspaper advertisement; and here again the pur-chaser is at a decidel advantage. It is an age of sharp competition, and com-modities of all kinds are sold on very close margins. Sometimes fortuitous directions during the advertiser in giving his customers the benefit of large

are conveyed to the purchasing public promptly, through the medium of attractive and honest advertisements in the daily newsmaper, with resultant profit to both advertiser and purchaser. It is a grave mistake to assume that readers of a daily newspaper ignore is advertisements. While the lives of so many busy men are so engrossed that they are obliged to content themselves. ordinarily with glancing through the headlines of the more important items of the news of the city and the world, it must be remembered they are not the only readers. It is not discrediting the intelligence of the fair members of the usy man's family to say that they are ometimes more interested in learning where they can make their purchawhere they can make the wide, with reference to economy and true value, than they are in the movements of the troops in the Soudar. The femiliane mind is quick to appreciate a bargain; and it is bargains which the wideawake dealer in a verything—from a card of celluloid collar buttons to a seal skin cape or grand in the through plane—is seeking to offer. It is through the attractive and conscientious adver-tisement in the modern newspaper that the mutal advantage of both dealer and

purchases which he has been enabled to make, or the advantages of a clearing sale. These and other bits of information

#### THAT BERING SEA AWARD.

prebuser is secured

From the Washington Post. Let us pay and be done with it. We have been builted, hoodwinked, caloled and thwarted abroad, and sacrificed at home. For our own sakes let us crase the abominable memory forever. As t the future, we have naught to say, Pre-sumably it will be a repetition of the hateful past. We shall have more diplo-macy, more abhorrent humbug, and more discomfiture and degradation. further palayer, a few additional acts in the tawdry opera bouffe, three or tour extra statesmen, and the muddle will be made nauseous beyond remedy. For our part, instead of perpetuating this nas been doubled. But there has been no corresponding increase in the cost of liquor to the consumer, and in most cases it remains the same as it was under low licenses. Take one conspicuous instance. be in the hands of some one strong an shrewd enought to hold it.

Two Pair of Eyes. He delighted with a new plays-"Isn't it grand?"
She-"Perfectly lovely! it must have

een made by Worth."



MR. AND MRS. VERY MUCH PLEASED TALKING ABOUT THEIR CHRISTMAS CHINA BOUGHT AT OUR STORE.

THE CLEMONS, FERBER, O'MALLEY CO. 422 Lackawanna Avenue.

Blank Books Diaries Calendars

Beidleman,

BOOKMAN

THE

437 Spruce St.

Que. The Commonwealth.



## Business Reputations

Are not made by selling penny prints and 4c stockings. there is something better for you in this store than that. You'll find at all times useful merchandise here-goods that you can buy with confidence and wear with satisfaction. Doesn't it hinge well with your ideas of economy to spend your money to the very best advantage. Cheap goods are not always goods cheap. There's a vast difference between the two. A sham or trashy substitution is dear at any price; think it over, please, the next time you've got dry goods to buy. Although we're hard at work taking our annual Inventory, there are

### Two Items in Dress Goods

to which we desire to call your attention:

Silk Mixed Suitings in a dozen different combinations, 36 inches wide, at 18 cents. SEE WINDOW.

Pompadour Suitings in twelve different colorings combined with black, 40 inces wide, 21 cents: SEE WINDOW.

## French Organdies

Exclusive designs imported expressly for us, and just the proper thing for evening wear, are now ready for your inspection.

# Happy New Year

To the good people of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

## Lewis, Reilly & Davies.

114-116 Wyoming Ave

## This Week

We will have some GREAT BARGAINS. We will offer at your own price the following

Fancy and Plain Carving Sets, Fancy Tea and Coffee Sets, Fancy Table and Pocket Cutlery, Fancy Scissors and Shears, Five O'Clock Teas, Chafing Dishes.

These goods are what we have left over Xmas, and must be closed out before inventory.

FOOTE & SHEAR CO., 119 Washington Avenue.

And when you consider the moderate prices at which the goods are marked is a further claim on the attention and consideration of

#### GIFT SUGGESTIONS.

DRESSING TABLES. FANCY TABLES. BOOK CASES,

EASY CHAIRS. GILT CHAIRS, INLAID CHAIRS ROCKERS. SHAVING STANDS PEDESTALS. TABOURETTES.

WORK TABLES,

All at lowest prices consistent with the high quality of the goods.

# Hill &

Scranton, Pa.

Clothing reliable at prices, has always been our motto. Quality unexcelled, prices the lowest.

Your money back if you want it; and the same price to everybody. Open Evenings Until After the Holidays.

416 LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

# FINLEY'S

Special Sale of

FANCY SILKS

designs in 3 lots, includ-

Brocades.

Persians.

Stripes, etc.

in lengths ranging from

five to twenty yards each.

Former Price. \$1.00 to

LOT 1.....59 Cents

LOT 2.....69 Cents

LOT 3.....88 Cents

a yard, to close them out.

The greatest bargain of

510 and 512

Roman

For This Week,

We offer about 1,000 yards Fancy Silk, choice

HILL & CONNELL'S

Such a choice stock to select from cannot be found elsewhere in this part of the state

#### WRITING DESKS,

CHEVAL GLASSES, PARLOR CABINETS. MUSIC CABINETS. CURIO CABINETS, FANCY BASKETS.

LACKAWANNA AVENUE

the season.

\$1.65,

# Diarics

and Calendars at

STATIONERS, ENGRAVERS,

HOTEL JERMYN BUILDING. 139 Wyoming Avenue.

REYNOLDS BROTHERS.

HENRY BELIN, JR., General Agent for the Wyoming

DUPONT'S POWDER

Mining, Blasting, Sporting, Smokeles Company's

HIGH EXPLOSIVES. Safety Fuse, Caps and Exploders. Rooms 212, 213 and 214 Commonwealth

Pittston

Plymouth

Wilkes-Barre

THOS, FORD. JOHN B. SMITH & SON,

E. W. MULLIGAN. MT. PLEASANT

AT RETAIL.

Coal of the best quality for domestic use and of all sizes, including Buckwheat and Birdseye, delivered in any part of the city

at the lowest price Orders received at the Office, first floor, Commonwealth building, room No 6; telephone No. 2624 or at the mine, telephone No. 272, will be promptly attended to. Dealers supplied at the mine.

WM. T. SMITH.